The ADC Transitive Replication support

By Marcelo Calbucci

Keywords: ADC, Exchange, And Transitive Replication, msExchADCGlobalNames

The Active Directory Connector supports a type of replication called “Transitive Replication”. What this means is that you can have a server A, a server B and a server C, and make that Mailbox MB goes from A to B and from B to C in order to C do not lose its link with the original A.

Here is a practical example: You have a Company A that has Exchange Server installed and is installing Active Directory, there is another affiliated company of A called Company B that also has Exchange Server. And let’s say you want to company A and B to share their Address Book information. You would do a Connection like this:

Exchange-A ⇔ ActiveDirectoryA ⇔ Exchange-B

In such order that if a modification for a MB in Exchange-A occur, it will be replicated to Exchange-B, and vice-versa.

This is possible due to a very special attribute that ADC uses: msExchADCGlobalNames. This attribute will have a list of all known Exchange DNs and Active Directory GUIDs for that entry.

So, for the user that we just talked about it, he’ll have a msExchADCGlobalNames that will contain these information:

```
EX: cn=User1,ou=SiteOfCompanyA,o=CompanyA
NT: 83cbf256-7e04-468b-a1f2-953ccd94111f
EX: cn=User1,ou=SiteOfCompanyB,o=CompanyB
```

This information, we teach ADC how to match objects from Exchange-A to ActiveDirectoryA and from ActiveDirectoryA to ExchangeB, because we have everything that we need to know to find those users.

Here’s a second usage for this attribute: If a user was ever modified by ADC, it should have this attribute! This is a good way to troubleshoot problems with ADC, because if the attribute is not there is guaranteed that ADC didn’t touch the object.